



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY**



MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Don R. Boyce
Director

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan
Secretary

March 20, 2010

Federal Communications Commission
Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made.

MEMA currently operates a state wide VHF radio system for the purposes of coordinating our official activities and communicating with the 352 communities within the Commonwealth during emergencies and exercises. MEMA has four operating regions managed by three regional offices. The present multicast system although making great use of existing licenses is impractical to expand further as it is spectrum intensive and has some areas with marginal coverage. In the process of moving forward MEMA seeks the attached spectrum request to support our endeavor of moving to three regional analog conventional simulcast systems. Some new sites are being sought to fill and overlap coverage. We also seek to construct a statewide digital conventional simulcast system for command and control purposes. This would enable communities, which were provided a radio by a previous grant to communicate with their respective regional office to coordinate emergency response operations. The digital network would be used by agency heads at the state level to coordinate amongst each other and key federal agencies; it will also be used as an overflow channel if the primary regional networks are overloaded.

Region I
P.O. Box 116
365 East Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876
Tel: 978-328-1500 Fax: 978-851-8218

Region II
P.O. Box 54
12-I Rear Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA 02324-0054
Tel: 508-427-0400 Fax: 508-697-8869

Region III / IV
1002 Suffield Street
Agawam, MA 01001
Tel: 413-821-1500 Fax: 413-821-1599

If there are any questions or concerns about our requests for spectrum, please do not hesitate to contact me at the information provided below.

Sincerely,

John R Surette
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